



## Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 August 2007

Current  
Nationwide  
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)  
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

### Daily Highlights

- According to the Associated Press, in an attempt to reduce money counterfeiting, the U.S. \$100 will feature a new security thread combining micro-printing with small lenses. (See item [8](#))
- USA Today reports that a new airport shoe scanner, checking footwear while worn, did not pass the tests during high flows of passengers, and weapons and bomb parts went undetected. (See item [14](#))

### DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Quick Links*

**Production Industries:** [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

**Service Industries:** [Banking and Finance; Transportation and Border Security; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

**Sustenance and Health:** [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

**Federal and State:** [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National](#)

**Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels:** Physical: **ELEVATED**, Cyber: **ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

## Energy Sector

1. *August 26, AP* — **Plants' cleanup may have unintended side effect.** Coal-fired power plants' efforts to improve air quality may lead to a buildup of potentially hazardous ash. In a process being used increasingly across the nation, chemicals are injected into plants' emissions to capture airborne pollutants. The process alters the chemical composition of the ash. It can't be

used in cement, for example, because the interaction of the chemicals may keep the concrete from hardening. That ash has to go somewhere; it usually ends up in landfills along with the rest of the unusable waste. Coal ash naturally contains arsenic and mercury, and if the elements leach into groundwater they can contaminate drinking supplies. The EPA says ash disposed of in landfills could pose significant risks when mismanaged, and there are gaps in state regulation.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070826/ap\\_on\\_bi\\_ge/clean\\_air\\_dirty\\_land;\\_ylt=ApAhFn\\_zRVrfEn666g6UvFI2ocA](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070826/ap_on_bi_ge/clean_air_dirty_land;_ylt=ApAhFn_zRVrfEn666g6UvFI2ocA)

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## **Chemical Industry**

2. *August 27, photonics.com* — **Instant biochemical detector devised.** Commercializing a new type of detector that can instantly identify biochemical contaminants in liquid is the objective of a Canadian physicist, and an optical scientist with the University of Arizona. The researchers agree that the ability to concurrently test liquids for chemical and biological contamination is a logical next step. Detecting toxins is critical to many areas, such as pharmacology, toxicology and environmental monitoring.

Source: <http://www.photonics.com/content/news/2007/August/27/88761.aspx>

3. *August 26, Palo Alto Daily News* — **Chemical spill closes road.** A liquid chemical spill in California temporarily shut down Tunitas Creek Road near state Highway 35 in San Mateo County Saturday afternoon. The chemical may have been Xylene, a colorless, flammable liquid, according to the California Highway Patrol. It is unknown how much liquid spilled or where it came from.

Source: <http://www.paloaltodailynews.com/article/2007-8-26-smc-chemical>

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## **Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste**

4. *August 27, The Seattle Times* — **Hanford workers report symptoms after waste spill.** Workers at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington claim that exposure to chemical and radioactive waste is the cause for their recent health issues. The seven workers acknowledged a variety of symptoms; including, upset stomachs, headaches, respiratory problems, dizziness, irritation of the eyes, and blurred vision. So far, the occupational health provider has been unable to find a correlation between the symptoms and the spill, but the acting medical director for AdvanceMed Hanford is not ruling anything out.

Source: [http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003855003\\_hanfordspill27.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2003855003_hanfordspill27.html)

5. *August 26, examiner.com* — **U.S.-India nuclear deal facing opposition.** The U.S.-India proposed nuclear deal's future has been threatened by communist allies of India's Prime Minister. Critics of the agreement believe the deal would weaken Indian sovereignty, and allow for the U.S. to dictate Indian foreign initiatives. The Indian opposition is directly opposed to a strategic alliance with the U.S. The potential deal is recognized as an opportunity to improve the relationship between the two nations.

Source: [http://www.examiner.com/a-900704~Doubts\\_Grow\\_Over\\_U\\_S\\_India\\_Nuclear\\_Deal.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-900704~Doubts_Grow_Over_U_S_India_Nuclear_Deal.html)

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## **Defense Industrial Base Sector**

6. *August 27, Washington Post* — **South Carolina Naval installation upgrades its communications systems.** The upgrade will provide technical support to the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center in Charleston, which configures electronics products to meet various military communications needs. A key component of the Systems Center's work is the integration of command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance functions that collectively are known as C4ISR.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/26/AR2007082601075.html>

7. *August 26, Financial Times* — **Saudis set up force to guard oil plants.** Saudi Arabia has begun setting up a robust security force to protect its oil infrastructure from potential terrorist attacks. The new defense measure is evidence of the kingdom's growing concern about its oil installations after threats from extremist groups, as well as rising tensions between Iran and the U.S. The force is being trained in the use of high-technology surveillance equipment, countermeasures, and crisis management under a program managed by a US defense contractor. The world's chief oil exporter lays claims to over one quarter of the world's discovered oil reserves. To protect its resources Saudi Arabia is investing an estimated \$4bn.

Source: <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3c32a024-5413-11dc-9a6e-0000779fd2ac.html>

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## **Banking and Finance Sector**

8. *August 27, AP* — **\$100 bill make-over.** The Associated Press announced that in an attempt to reduce money counterfeiting, the U.S. \$100 will feature a new security thread combining micro-printing with small lenses. The new change is meant to divert criminals from reproducing the most targeted bill of counterfeiters outside the U.S. In an era where technological devices are facilitating criminal activities, the complex device produced by Crane & Co., a Dalton, Massachusetts-based company, was embraced and applied for the bill's redesign. The bill, which is set to go into circulation next year, features an image appearing to

move up and down when the bill is moved side to side. Currently, one-third of the bill's redesign production is complete.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,294637,00.html>

9. *August 27, Technology Marketing Corporation Net* — **New \$5 bill online debut.** The U.S. Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing department decided to publicize digitally the design of its new \$5 bill. According to the Chief of the Office of External Relations at the Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the reason for the digital debut is twofold: to protect it from counterfeiters and to advertise it. In order to increase public awareness of the new bills' design, government officials stored several training materials available for order or download at [www.moneyfactory.gov/newmoney](http://www.moneyfactory.gov/newmoney). The website registered over 222 million hits since its debut in May 2003, and is still recording each month approximately 280,000 hits. The new bill will be exposed on September 20, 2007 when reporters and podcasts will be able to ask questions via online. During the following days, "streaming video of man-on-the-street interviews will be posted on the site, showcasing consumers identifying the new \$5 bill's updated security features." The government is currently redesigning the \$100 bill, which will be issued in 2008.

Source: <http://www.tmcnet.com/news/2007/08/27/2890065.htm>

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## **Transportation and Border Security Sector**

10. *August 27, Washington Post* — **FTA handles Maryland major transportation project.** The Federal Transit Administration will be responsible for any type of transit line project, which will connect New Carrollton and Bethesda and will decide how, when, and the finances related to it. The same agency became in charge of the new Purple metro line project, which was recently delayed for a year when federal officials estimated the funds were insufficient and the prognosticated number of riders was not high enough. Analysts approximated the cost for the new line to go up to \$1.6 billion, a sum the state cannot provide if federal help is absent. The prospects of this project are presently dim because FTA has proposed a disappointing \$1.4 billion for the next fiscal year and, according to a federal report, more than 100 transit projects nationwide are becoming ready to compete for federal money in the following years. According to FTA criteria and federal guidelines, a transit project is taken into consideration for funding if "it attracts enough riders, the state and local governments' ability to help pay for construction, maintenance and operating costs, air quality, development around stations and the ability to move lower-income workers to jobs." Many officials are disappointed with FTA's *modus operandi* for funds allocation considering unfair that states will receive \$42 billion for highway maintenance and construction, especially when transit projects are booming in cities like Phoenix, Denver and Houston, where representatives are trying to reduce air pollution. In spite of local residents' complaints, Maryland's 16-mile Purple line is forecasted to be completed by 2015.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/08/26/AR2007082601189.html>

11. *August 27, AP* — **Miss. River bridge closed at Memphis.** Officials shut down a major Mississippi River bridge Monday after one of its piers settled nearly 4 inches during the night in a construction zone. The pier that settled is between two other piers, so the Interstate 40 bridge is still supported. The bridge links West Memphis to Memphis, Tenn. Traffic was diverted to the nearby I-55 bridge crossing the river. Workers have been improving the I-40 bridge to make it safer in case of earthquakes. The New Madrid fault runs through the area. Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070827/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/river\\_bridge\\_closed](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070827/ap_on_re_us/river_bridge_closed)
12. *August 27, Associated Press* — **San Diego cross-border bridge might close.** Both U.S and Mexico residents became uneasy when news of the possible close-down of the only pedestrian bridge crossing 30 lanes of traffic at the US-Mexico border was announced by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. A year ago, officials closed the bicyclists' lane and reduce privileges for physically challenged people to cut in front of the line. However, this summer, CBP officials took the safety issue a step further when they announced the closing of the bridge is a viable option due to the crimes that take place on the bridge such as stabbings and muggings. The statement was met with high criticism and opposition by the multitude of pedestrians crossing the bridge every day, but also by business owners and civic leaders, who are currently pressing decision makers for increased number of traffic lanes. A compromise might be reached, according to CBP officials, who are inclined to take into consideration the possibility of closing the bridge in the morning when transit operations are not running. Source: [http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070827/ap\\_on\\_re\\_us/border\\_bridge;\\_ylt=Aq.FpKgMYVuefhe5g461bZKs0NUE](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070827/ap_on_re_us/border_bridge;_ylt=Aq.FpKgMYVuefhe5g461bZKs0NUE)
13. *August 27, Dothan Eagle, Alabama* — **New construction work on U.S., Alabama.** On Monday, a 4.5 mile construction project will start from West of Dothan's city limits to the Ross Clark Bridge, according to the Alabama Department of Transportation. The work involves planning, resurfacing, and traffic pipe, and is expected to last for 90 working days. Travelers are encouraged to be cautious around the construction site and to reduce speed. Source: <http://www.dothaneagle.com/gulfcoasteast/dea/contactus.html>
14. *August 27, USA Today* — **Airport Security device not passing tests.** A new shoe scanner checking footwear while worn did not pass the tests during high flows of passengers, when weapons and bomb parts went undetected, according to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) chief Kip Hawley. Officials operating at airports where the ShoeScanner was installed for the Verified Identity Pass users, reported inefficiencies exhibited by the machine, and rated it as not useful. Nevertheless, various companies strive to improve this type of technology, which will facilitate security at checking points. General Electric announced last week that the company presented an upgraded Shoe Scanner to a DHS lab in New Jersey with hopes that the newly modifications will be enough to meet TSA weapons-detection requirements. Hawley stated that when the machine will become reliable during high flows of passengers, it will be used by all passengers, not just by the Verified subscribers. The ShoeScanner features a sensor capable of detecting explosives on people's fingertips, and costs

\$200,000.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-26-shoescanner\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-26-shoescanner_N.htm)

15. *August 27, Aviationweek* — **Public and private partnership to promote travel to the U.S.**  
The Travel Industry Association of America president and CEO Roger Dow announced a plan to promote travel to the U.S. abroad by coupling private and public efforts. Currently, “the federal government providing up to \$200 million annually in matching funds to the travel industry that would come from a \$10 fee paid by foreign visitors from Visa Waiver Program countries.” Next month, the TIA members will join forces to lobby for the passing of this legislation when coming to DC for the Leadership Summit. The TIA has vehemently promoted this law because travel to the U.S has declined by 6 million since 2006- last year, the U.S. received only 6% of the total travelers around the globe. The agency is also trying to capture \$40 million, which is now in the DHS spending bill in the Senate, to establish a program “improving the visitor’s experience” at 20 airports with the highest number of international travelers. Other topics on the TIA’s agenda are the International Registered Traveler (IRT) Program expected to run soon at New York Kennedy Airport, the problem of missing connecting flights in the U.S. after coming off of an international flight, and the promotion of a 30-day wait period for visa approval.  
Source:  
[http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story\\_generic.jsp?channel=aviationdaily&id=news/TIA08277.xml&headline=TIA%20Pushes%20U.S.%20Promotion%20In%20Legislative%20Agenda](http://www.aviationweek.com/aw/generic/story_generic.jsp?channel=aviationdaily&id=news/TIA08277.xml&headline=TIA%20Pushes%20U.S.%20Promotion%20In%20Legislative%20Agenda)
16. *August 27, Newsday* — **Tunnel Repair causes commuter train chaos.** On Monday morning, repairs on tracks in one of the East River Tunnels going to Penn Station caused train delays and cancellations. Revolted commuters complained that the Long Island Rail Road officials did not issue an alert to inform the passengers of the service disruptions earlier than 7 a.m. when it was posted on the LIRR website. According to LIRR spokesman Mike Charles, the railroad became aware of the track problem "sometime after midnight" on Monday. Railroad disruptions in this area occurred also on Saturday and Sunday when, because of work on a bridge, service between Mineola and Hicksville was cancelled. This suspension in train service affected more than 50,000, who claimed railroad officials did not issue adequate warnings prior to the beginning of the construction. According to the LIRR website, the information on the bridge work was posted Thursday night, only 24 hours before the repairs started. Nonetheless, Monday morning commuters were even less fortunate, and found out about the tunnel problem when already aboard.  
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/ny-lilirr0828.0,1491060.story>
17. *August 27, Associated Construction Publications Data* — **New Carpool lanes project for Arizona.** According the Arizona State Transportation officials, Coffman Specialties Inc. of San Diego, California, was awarded a \$47.5 million contract to build new carpool lanes “along a 15-mile stretch of Loop 101 (Pima Freeway) between Princess Drive in Scottsdale and Loop 202 (Red Mountain Freeway) in Tempe.” The construction will also involve new drainage facilities, signs, upgraded lighting, and freeway management technology, including several new overhead message boards and ramp meters. The work is expected to begin in September



with a finishing dateline set for early 2009.

Source: <http://www.acppubs.com/article/CA6471933.html>

18. *August 27, Associated Construction Publications* — **New Highway Contracts in Wyoming.** The Wyoming Transportation Commission approved \$15 million worth of contracts for 8 highway projects. Worland's Hout Fencing won the largest contract for a total of \$3.9 million to build "six wildlife crossing underpasses and additional deer fencing along 12 miles of US-30 in Nugget Canyon west of Kemmerer." The urgency of additional deer fencing was propelled by the increased number of car accidents colliding with deer. This project is set to be completed by October, 2008. The next largest contract was awarded to McMurry Ready-Mix of Casper, which is going to use the \$3.1 million "for isolated repairs and pavement overlay on about 2.5 miles of I-80 near the Granger Junction interchange about 23 miles west of Green River." The dateline for this project is also October, 2008. The rest of the contracts went to Gillette's Intermountain Construction Materials; McGarvin Moberly Construction of Worland; Century Companies of Lewistown, Mont.; Wishbone Fencing of Aladdin; and Cheyenne's Reiman Corp.

Source: <http://www.acppubs.com/article/CA6471938.html>

19. *August 27, New York Public Radio* — **75 year old skyway to be repaired.** New Jersey transportation officials announced that the Pulaski Skyway connecting Jersey City to Newark will undergo repairs starting today. Although the skydive was not designated as 'unsafe', it was rated among the top eight bridges taken into consideration for repairs or replacement. The bridge is crossed by 100,000 vehicles and is considered one of the worst in the entire state.

Source: <http://www.wnyc.org/news/articles/84542>

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## **Postal and Shipping Sector**

20. *August 27, Business Wire* — **DHL opens new facility in Baltimore, Maryland.** DHL, the world's leading global express delivery and logistics company, today announced the opening of a new facility at the Baltimore/Washington International Airport. DHL's previous operations at the airport have been enhanced with the opening of a new, \$1.6 million on-airport facility serving Baltimore and surrounding areas. Improved material handling equipment for aircraft container loading and unloading as well as a 25 percent larger facility now provide for a significantly more efficient operation. The new 18,663-sq.-ft. facility will also handle additional routes, providing deliveries for more customers in Baltimore, as well as various locations in Howard County, Md., including Columbia, Elkrige, Hanover, and Jessup, and features additional load positions to accommodate more vehicles and volumes of freight.

Source:

[http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20070827005594&newsLang=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20070827005594&newsLang=en)

## **Agriculture and Food Sector**

21. *August 27, Reuters* — **Germany sees export curbs after bird flu case.** Germany expects the European Union to restrict exports of poultry and poultry products from the region where the lethal H5N1 strain of bird flu was found over the weekend, the country's Agriculture Ministry said on Monday. The EU Commission was likely to announce a ban on poultry and poultry products from the 13 km radius protection zone around the farm in the southern state of Bavaria.  
Source: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L27334170.htm>
22. *August 27, USAgNet* — **West Nile Virus found in Delaware chickens.** West Nile virus has been detected for the first time this year in blood samples taken from Delaware's sentinel chickens that are systematically monitored for mosquito-borne diseases. The results were reported to Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control over the past week by the Delaware Division of Public Health Laboratory, and came from a sentinel chicken sampled by Mosquito Control on Aug. 6 at a Cherry Island station in southeastern Wilmington near the mouth of the Christina River and another sentinel chicken sampled on Aug. 13 at the same station.  
Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=2002&yr=2007>
23. *August 27, Reuters* — **Australian racing ban extended due to equine flu.** Thoroughbred racing was banned indefinitely on Monday in Australia's most populous state of New South Wales, as an outbreak of equine flu spread to 60 horses and another 450 horses were suspected of being infected. A three-day national ban on horse movements was extended until Friday in an attempt to contain the outbreak. The National Agriculture Minister stated that, "This standstill applies to all horses, donkeys and mules, not just racehorses, and in effect, it means horses should not be leaving their property, not even when being ridden or led." The highly contagious disease is not infectious to humans but has the same debilitating effect on horses as influenza has on people; causing high fevers, coughing, sneezing and lack of appetite. In rare cases, it can be fatal to horses.  
Source:  
[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070827/hl\\_nm/horse\\_racing\\_flu\\_australia\\_dc;\\_ylt=AqGQzkU.jNLzRmK1\\_vMdSIMQ.3QA](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070827/hl_nm/horse_racing_flu_australia_dc;_ylt=AqGQzkU.jNLzRmK1_vMdSIMQ.3QA)

## **Water Sector**

24. *August 27, AP* — **Authorities investigate stream contamination.** Authorities were alerted



Thursday after a passer-by reported fish were jumping out of Fleshman Creek in Livingston, Montana. The state fish and wildlife agency estimates chemicals killed 200 trout and other fish. The water was contaminated with chemicals commonly used in cattle feed, dry batteries, soaps, adhesives and production of methamphetamine. Authorities identified the chemicals as ammonium chloride and dimethylamine.

Source: [http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/08/27/montana/a070826\\_01.txt](http://www.helenair.com/articles/2007/08/27/montana/a070826_01.txt)

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## **Public Health and Healthcare Sector**

25. *August 27, Toronto Star* — **Stem cell transplant advance 'thrilling'**. In a major scientific advance, U.S. researchers have used human embryonic stem cells to repair damaged heart tissue in rats that had suffered cardiac arrests. The Deputy Scientific Director of the non-profit Canadian Stem Cell Network, says the ability to make large numbers of heart cells and to have them live after transplant "are big steps forward." The study authors also created a concoction of compounds that helped the newly created heart cells survive once they'd been transplanted into the damaged rat organs. Sifting through a slew of biochemical factors that were known to be involved in heart formation, researchers came up with a formula that greatly increased the yield of heart tissue from the stem cells. In total, the combined procedures increased the proportion of successful cell grafts from 15 per cent to 100 per cent in the rodents, who went through lab-induced heart attacks.

Source: <http://www.thestar.com/living/Health/article/250149>

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## **Government Facilities Sector**

26. *August 26, North Jersey Media Group* — **Bergen County Courthouse gets high-tech security makeover**. In the next few months Bergen County Courthouse will have one of the most advanced security systems in the nation. Prisoners brought into the Hackensack building for court proceedings will be tracked by a shortwave device, much like a plane on a radar screen. In case of an emergency, sheriff's officers will be able to immediately lock down some or all of the building. More than 200 infrared cameras will record everything that occurs in hallways and courtrooms, even in the case of a power blackout. They will also double as intercoms for judges' chambers. In addition judges will carry wireless panic buttons to alert police if there's trouble within a six-block radius. Cameras installed on poles around the building will zoom in on the location, and the images will be transmitted to computer monitors inside police cruisers. The first phase of the \$3 million project, funded mostly by federal grants so far, will become operational within the next two months on two criminal courtroom floors of the building.

Source:

<http://www.northjersey.com/page.php?qstr=eXJpcnk3ZjczN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXkzJmZnYmVsN2Y3dnFIZUVFeXk3MTg2NzUyJnlyaXJ5N2Y3MTdmN3ZxZWVFRXl5Mw>

## **Emergency Services Sector**

27. *August 27, The Morning Call* — **Emergency services merger is mulled.** Northampton County, PA would combine 911 and emergency management, expand staff. Northampton County is looking to revamp its emergency management structure and create a Division of Emergency Management Services whose chief would oversee both 911 operations and emergency management. The reorganization would remove both 911 and emergency management from the control of the sheriff's department and place it under the Northampton administration. That would allow the sheriff's department to concentrate on its core, court-related functions. The restructuring will allow for more interaction and planning between 911 and emergency management.  
Source: [http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-b1\\_3emreorg.5985096aug27,0,7281416.story](http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-b1_3emreorg.5985096aug27,0,7281416.story)
28. *August 27, Yahoo! Finance* — **Emergency responders receive rail safety training from industry experts.** Emergency responders in California will be undergoing rail transportation safety and security training for the next couple weeks. First responders have the opportunity to learn from leading experts in the chemical and rail transportation industries about the responsible movement of hazardous materials through populated areas. The training program is part of a national outreach initiative that provides education to first responders from members of the chemical manufacturing, transportation, and distribution industries.  
Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/070827/aqm106.html?.v=17>
29. *August 26, KTVU.com* — **California 911 dispatch centers burdened by cell phone calls.** An increase in cell phone calls to emergency agencies is overwhelming dispatch centers in California. Cell phone emergency calls take longer to handle, resulting in lost calls, longer waits, and potential delays in response time. The state government is working to divert calls from California Highway Patrol centers to local agencies to ease the influx of cell phone calls.  
Source: <http://www.ktvu.com/news/13977839/detail.html>

## **Information Technology**

30. *August 27, CondéNet, Inc* — **Server error labels Windows customers as software pirates.** Microsoft is blaming a server error for inadvertently labeling legitimate copies of Windows XP and Vista as pirated software. Thousands of users found their purchased copies of Windows labeled as pirated software by Microsoft's Windows Genuine Advantage validation system over the weekend. Any Vista system fingered by the malfunctioning server was stripped of

features, including the Aero graphical interface and DirectX support. After the issue cropped up, Microsoft's WGA program manager posted a note to the WGA forums announcing a fix, though the cause of the issue remains a mystery.

Source: <http://blog.wired.com/monkeybites/2007/08/server-error-la.html>

31. *August 26, Reuters* — **China counters German hackers and spying reports.** China rejected on Sunday a German magazine report that computer hackers believed to be linked to the Chinese army had infected German government ministries with spying programs. The Der Spiegel magazine, in a report ahead of a visit by the German Chancellor to China, said that top German government ministries, including The Chancellor's office, had been infected by the attack. "The Chinese government consistently opposes and strictly prohibits all criminal activities that damage computer network performance, including "hackers" behavior," a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said in a statement.

Source:

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070826/wr\\_nm/china\\_germany\\_dc:\\_ylt=Alc\\_x0K86t6eJ8STctO14dIjtBAF](http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20070826/wr_nm/china_germany_dc:_ylt=Alc_x0K86t6eJ8STctO14dIjtBAF)

### Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Website: [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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## Communications Sector

32. *August 27, WebWire* — **Skype and Wal-Mart partner to bring Internet communications to the masses.** Skype, the leading Internet communications company, has announced that it is teaming up with Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, to address the growing popularity and demand for Internet communications among U.S. consumers. Wal-Mart is offering Skype Certified hardware in the Internet and voice communications area of 1,800 of its stores throughout the country, providing more opportunity and accessibility for people looking for affordable calling options. The addition of Skype Internet communications products to Wal-Mart stores comes at a time when Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) adoption among U.S. households is growing rapidly.

Source: <http://www.webwire.com/ViewPressRel.asp?aId=45984>

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## **Commercial Facilities Sector**

33. *August 26, AP* — **Repairs resume at WTC skyscraper.** Repair work resumed this weekend to stabilize a ground zero skyscraper that burned in a deadly fire. All work was stopped at the former Deutsche Bank tower on Thursday after a construction worker removing debris lost control of a 300-pound piece of equipment, which fell off the building and injured two firefighters on the ground. Limited repair work resumed Saturday. The work includes debris removal, scaffold repair and installation of netting that was burned in the Aug. 18 blaze. The tower contains asbestos, lead, mercury and other toxins blown in when the World Trade Center collapsed just across the street on Sept. 11, 2001.

Source: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-26-deutsche-bank-fire\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-26-deutsche-bank-fire_N.htm)

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## **National Monuments & Icons Sector**

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## **Dams Sector**

Nothing to Report

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## **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

**DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports** – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website:  
<http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

### **DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information**

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to [dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov](mailto:dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov) or contact the DHS Daily Report Team at (703) 983–3644.

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### **Contact DHS**

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at [nicc@dhs.gov](mailto:nicc@dhs.gov) or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at [soc@us-cert.gov](mailto:soc@us-cert.gov) or visit their Web page at [www.us-cert.gov](http://www.us-cert.gov).

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